



Asamblea General

Distr. general
14 de octubre de 2014
Español
Original: inglés

Consejo de Derechos Humanos

27º período de sesiones

Tema 9 de la agenda

**Racismo, discriminación racial, xenofobia y formas
conexas de intolerancia, seguimiento y aplicación de
la Declaración y el Programa de Acción de Durban**

Nota verbal de fecha 22 de septiembre de 2014 dirigida a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos por la Misión Permanente de Grecia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra y otras organizaciones internacionales en Suiza

La Misión Permanente de Grecia ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones internacionales en Suiza saluda atentamente a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos y tiene el honor de transmitirle por la presente las observaciones del Gobierno de Grecia en relación con la declaración escrita de fecha 25 de agosto de 2014 presentada por la Federación Europea de Turcos de Tracia Occidental, una organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad de carácter consultivo especial (A/HRC/27/NGO/20).

La Misión Permanente de Grecia solicita a la Oficina del Alto Comisionado que distribuya el texto adjunto* como documento del Consejo de Derechos Humanos en su 27º período de sesiones en relación con el tema 9 de la agenda.

* Se reproduce en el anexo como se recibió, en el idioma en que se presentó únicamente.

GE.14-18506 (S) 041114 041114



* 1 4 1 8 5 0 6 *

Se ruega reciclar



Anexo

[Inglés únicamente]

Minority education in Thrace, Greece

Greece fully respects all rights of the members of the Muslim minority in Thrace, including their right to education. Special social and educational policies are constantly implemented by the State across all levels of education: primary, secondary and tertiary.

For instance, “The Education of the Children of the Muslim Minority in Thrace” programme is a policy aiming at supporting Muslim minority children in their schooling in terms of attendance, performance and assistance. One of the positive results of this action is that the number of Muslim minority girls graduating from high school has significantly increased.

Moreover, a 0.5% quota of the general admission to Universities and Higher Technical Educational Institutes is reserved to Muslim minority students from Thrace. This has led to an equally significant increase of the number of Muslim minority undergraduate students (eightfold since 1996). Additionally, parents of Muslim children can themselves, as well, benefit from Greek language and culture courses, so that they will be able to engage more actively in their children’s education.

Greece firmly believes that education constitutes one of the key tools enabling minority children to further integrate into the society they live in, while fully respecting their cultural diversity. Thus, Greece is complying with the provisions of the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, as well as with relevant international conventions.

School-aged children, who are members of the Muslim minority and have opted for minority schooling, are accommodated by 146 primary, 2 secondary and 2 religious (Koranic) schools. Muslim pre-schoolers can attend one of the 57 public kindergartens across the Region of Thrace, operating in areas where Muslim population resides.

Greece spares no efforts in the continuous endeavour to improve existing education infrastructure and renew school equipment. Our policies aim at enabling every student, belonging to the Muslim minority, to be educated, to be guaranteed unfettered access to the labour market, to integrate into the society and to develop freely their personality.

The civil society is a useful ally in this effort. The Greek Government attaches great importance to the dialogue with the civil society; a dialogue, which is a comprehensive process oriented towards guaranteeing the prosperity of and enhancing the opportunities for all Greek citizens in an equal manner - irrespective of their religious belief, cultural background or origin. Greece will continue to further explore ways and means to meet the needs of the Muslim minority and work for their well-being.